

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of charging a vertical tube (1) having an internal diameter of 50 mm or less with catalyst particles (2), which comprises

- introducing a filling aid (3) into the vertical tube (1), where the filling aid comprises a flexible elongated body and the ratio of the cross section of the flexible elongated body to the cross section of the tube (1) is from 0.003 to 0.08 and the filling aid has no elements which extend radially outward from the flexible body and whose projection onto a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the filling aid has a larger area than the cross section of the flexible body,
- introducing the catalyst particles (2) into the tube (1), and
- withdrawing the filling aid (3) during introduction of the catalyst particles (2) so that the lower end of the filling aid is always above the fill height of the catalyst particles (2) in the tube (1).

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the flexible elongated body has an essentially circular cross section.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the ratio of the diameter of the flexible elongated body to the diameter of the tube (1) is from 0.005 to 0.07.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the flexible elongated body comprises ~~consists of~~ a textile string or a textile tape.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filling aid (3) ~~has~~ further comprises a rigid terminating element (4) whose density is greater than that of the flexible body.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filling aid (3) ~~has~~ further comprises spacers (5) which are arranged at a distance from one another and extend perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the filling aid (3).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~, which comprises successively:

- introducing the filling aid (3) into the tube (1) in such a way that the lower end of the filling aid (3) is located at a first height,
- introducing catalyst particles (2) into the tube (1) to below the first height,
- ~~if appropriate~~ optionally, partly withdrawing the filling aid (3) from the tube (1) so that the lower end of the filling aid (3) is located at a second or further height and introducing catalyst particles (2) into the tube (1) to below the second or further height,
- withdrawing the filling aid (3) completely from the tube (1) and filling the tube (1) with catalyst particles up to the final fill height.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise ~~composed of~~ a catalytically active composition.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~according to any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.

Claim 10 (New): The method of claim 2, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 11 (New): The method of claim 3, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 12 (New): The method of claim 4, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 13 (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 14 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 15 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein the catalyst particles comprise shaped bodies which comprise a catalytically active composition.

Claim 16 (New): The method of claim 2, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.

Claim 17 (New): The method of claim 3, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 4, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein the catalyst particles comprise a catalytic composition applied in the form of a shell to an inert support.